State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and DCCBs reiterating the important guidelines on investment portfolio and transactions in Government securities issued by RBI from time to time; advising all SCBs and DCCBs to necessarily hold their investments in Government Securities portfolio in either SGL account with RBI or in a dematerialized account with depositories; instituting a system of quarterly audit in Co-operative banks to be conducted by the concurrent auditor etc.

(c) All Co-operative institutions functioning in a State are governed by the provisions of the respective State Co-operative Societies Act and rules framed there under. The audit functions of these institutions are vested with the State Governments. In view of this, there is no proposal at present with Union Government to make the audit of Co-operative banks mandatory by CAG or any other institution.

(d) NABARD has reported that it conducts training programmes for the officers of Co-operatives on various aspects of bank's functioning. In addition, the training establishments of Co-operative Banks are also provided grant support by NABARD for conduct of training programmes for their staff. Aspects regarding internal checks and control are covered under these programmes. Further, the Regional Offices of NABARD have also been advised to conduct sensitization programme for client institutions on the subject. In addition, NABARD is also taking steps to conduct training programmes for the bank staff on Government securities transactions so as to apprise them about the guidelines issued by RBI/ NABARD in this regard.

(e) The extant guidelines issued by RBI/NABARD from time to time clearly stipulate that Boards of Directors of Co-operative banks do not have any powers to waive loans granted to any borrower.

Losses suffered by Tirupati airport

*333. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirupati airport in Andhra Pradesh is a loss making airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether less air services from different parts of the country is one of the reasons for losses of this pilgrimage airport; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d)Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has incurred a loss of Rs. 119.73 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs. 133.26 lakhs in 1999-2000 and Rs. 184.08 lakhs in 2000-2001 respectively at Tirupati airport. The major reasons for consistent losses at this airport is low passenger traffic which is well below 50% of the capacity deployed by Indian Airlines.

Indian Airlines is operating twice weekly A-320 service on Hyderabad-Tirupati-Hyderabad route and the passenger demand is adequately met. Tirupati is air linked to Hyderabad which is connected by air services to/ from Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhuvaneshwar, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur and Vishakhapatnam on domestic sectors and Bangkok, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat and Sharjah on international network of Indian Airlines.

Damage to historical sites in Delhi

*334. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the important historical sites in Delhi are being defaced by people who carve out their names on the walls;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the number of people booked for this offence till date; and

(d) whether stricter laws would be made to punish the guilty and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c)Yes, Sir. It is true that instances of scribbling and graffiti on walls have been noticed in some of our centrally protected monuments. But it is difficult to detect the culprits. However, the watch and ward staff have been asked to be vigilant in order to detect such acts of vandalism and the supervisory staff instructed to undertake regular inspections.